

Friday Update: August 30, 2002

Friday Update was not published August 23, 2002.

National Commission on Teaching and America's Future

At a symposium August 20-22, the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future (NCTAF) and its twenty state partners discussed how to assure that high quality teachers are in every classroom. Teacher turnover and attrition data suggest that retention as well as recruitment and preparation is a key factor in meeting the goal of a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. The Commission identified three strategies to balance teacher preparation with strong retention strategies. They are:

- **Organize every school for teaching and learning success.** To ensure that schools are places where strong learning can occur, the Commission recommends downsizing and reorganizing schools into smaller learning communities focused on achieving clear instructional objectives.
- **Ensure that the teacher preparation system meets both the teaching requirements of our schools and the learning needs of students.** NCTAF advocates an end to the debate over "alternative" vs. "traditional" teacher preparation. Noting that all routes to teaching lead to the front of the classroom, NCTAF stresses the importance of ensuring that all teacher preparation programs—alternative and traditional—set and meet high standards. All routes should ensure that every teacher has mastered the content in their teaching area and know how to teach it well. Short-term, quick fix approaches to placing teachers in the classroom have been shown to fuel high teacher attrition rates, and diminish teaching quality.
- **Develop and sustain professionally rewarding career paths for teachers, from induction through accomplished teaching.** NCTAF calls on states and school districts to establish and support mentoring programs for new teachers, and develop clear and rewarding career paths to accomplished teaching.

See <http://www.tc.edu/nctaf/whatsnew/index.html> for the entire report. Indiana was one of the original NCTAF partnership states.

Mentor Training Programs

The next deadline for submission of mentor training programs is October 1st. Guidelines and directions for program submission can be found on the web at <http://www.in.gov/psb/internship/internfuture.htm>.

Mentor Faculty Trainers

The list of certified mentor faculty trainers is now available on the web. Check out <http://www.in.gov/psb/internship/internfuture.htm>

Orientation for New Deans/Chairs

Six new administrators from educator preparation programs attended an orientation to the IPSB on Aug. 22nd. This was the IPSB's first orientation to explain how the various divisions support the work of the teacher preparation units. This will become an annual August event for new deans and chairs.

Better Teaching, Better Learning, Better Schools

The second statewide conference for National Board Certified Teachers, candidates, and interested parties will be on Saturday, September 21, 2002 at the University of Indianapolis. The program begins at 9:00 am and Betty Castor, President of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, will be the featured speaker. There is no registration fee for the day.

Did you know? All hands on deck in licensing. The IPSB mailed out 1,180 licenses the week of August 19, 2002.

If Indiana students are to achieve high standards, there must be competent, caring, qualified educators to get them there.